

Passage of time, for optimum utilisation of storage space, etc.

(c) No precise time-limit can be stipulated for disposal of the above confiscated goods since such disposal depends upon various factors which include completion of all departmental/court proceedings.

#### **Premature Retirement of Medical Officers in Armed Forces**

1480. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(e) whether the number of medical officers in the armed forces seeking premature retirement is on the increase:

(b) if so, the number of medical officers retired during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to find out the reasons for seeking pre-mature retirement by medical officers; and

(d) whether the Government propose to fix a minimum period of ten years compulsory service for the medical officers in the armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). The number of medical officers who sought and were granted premature retirement during the last three years is as follow:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of officers who sought premature retirement</i>	<i>Number of officers granted premature retirement</i>
1988	57	44
1989	84	38
1990	72	29

(c) The officers are required to specifically mention the reasons for seeking premature retirement. Reasons generally put forth are supersession or compassionate family circumstances.

(d) No, Sir. Each case is viewed on its merit.

[Translation]

#### **Crisis in Handloom Industry in U.P.**

1481. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom industry in eastern districts of Varanasi, Mau and Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh is facing crisis;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide a solid base to the collapsing handloom industry; and to promote the export of handloom products, particularly Banarasi Sarees; and

(c) the names of the countries to which Banarasi sarees are being exported and the quantum of exports during the last three years, year-wise?